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Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Programme 1
Political affairs

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

2. Regulation 4.13 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as necessary to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 proposed in the annex are as follows: modification of the overall orientation (revision of para. 1.3 and addition of a new para. 1.4) and modification of subprogramme 1 (para. 1.6), subprogramme 2 (paras. 1.11 and 1.12), subprogramme 3 (paras. 1.14 and 1.15), subprogramme 4 (paras. 1.22-1.24) and subprogramme 5 (para. 1.28).

4. The medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000 and issued as document A/55/6/Rev.1. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in documents A/56/6 (Introduction, A/56/6 (Sects. 1-33), A/56/6 (Income sects. 1-3) and A/56/6/Corr.1. It was revised and approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 56/253 and 56/254 of 24 December 2001.

5. In the proposed revisions, new text to be inserted appears in boldface type, and text to be deleted appears in strikeout type. An explanation of the changes is provided in italic type within brackets.

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Annex

Proposed revisions to programme 1, Political affairs

Overall orientation

1.3 The Department will **continue to** [*changed to indicate continuity of action*] strive in particular to reinforce the Organization's capacity for early warning, good offices and non-military measures to prevent disputes from escalating into conflicts, as well as to resolve conflicts that have erupted, while fully respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Member States and the principles of non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State and of consent, which is an essential element for the success of such efforts. The Department will also endeavour to enhance its capacity with regard to the political aspects of peace-building, as approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

Add a new paragraph 1.4 as follows:

1.4 In its capacity as the lead department on the subject of terrorism, the Department of Political Affairs will work with the Office of Legal Affairs, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and other members of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security, as well as other parts of the United Nations system, to review alternative courses of action for the United Nations system; prepare consolidated policy advice to the Secretary-General on the subject of terrorism; and coordinate any follow-up required on decisions taken by the Secretary-General. [*changed to reflect the additional mandate arising from Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)*]

Renumber old paragraphs 1.4 to 1.28 accordingly.

Subprogramme 1
Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

Strategy

1.7 [*old paragraph 1.6*] Within the Department of Political Affairs, the substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the regional divisions, assisted by the Policy Planning Unit. Political developments relevant to international peace and security worldwide will be monitored and assessed for the purpose of identifying options and formulating recommendations on the role that the United Nations may be called upon to play in the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts as well as in the area of post-conflict peace-building activities. Activities of the subprogramme will also involve assistance in the preparation of and participation in special missions (fact-finding, goodwill, good offices) dispatched by the Security Council or by the Secretary-General. To this end, information collection and analysis and early warning activities with respect to potential and actual conflicts that threaten international peace and security will be undertaken and utilized to enhance the capacity of the Secretariat, Member States and intergovernmental organizations, especially regional organizations with which the United Nations cooperates, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter and where permitted given the mandate and scope of regional arrangements and agencies, to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security. Pursuant to decisions of the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, and with the agreement of the Member States concerned where appropriate, action will be taken to organize, direct and execute special political missions as and when necessary. **The Department of Political Affairs will also have the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of armed conflict (A/55/985-S/2001/574 and Corr.1) as may be decided upon by relevant intergovernmental bodies. To this end, the Department of Political Affairs will work closely with other relevant parts of the United Nations system. Support will be provided, as necessary, to the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa and other General Assembly bodies.** [*changed to reflect the decisions of the General Assembly in its resolutions 55/281 and 56/37*]

Subprogramme 2
Electoral assistance

Expected accomplishments

1.12 [*old paragraph 1.11*] The technical capacity of Member States requesting assistance for the conduct of elections in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions **of the General Assembly and the Security Council** would be enhanced. [*changed to reflect the text approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253*]

Indicators of achievement

1.13 [*old paragraph 1.12*] ~~An indicator~~ **Indicators** of achievement would be the provision of electoral assistance to the Member States in response to their request **and increased transparency and accountability of electoral processes of Member States requesting assistance for the conduct of elections**. [*changed to reflect indicator (ii) in table 3.12 of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253*]

Subprogramme 3
Security Council affairs

Strategy

1.15 [*old paragraph 1.14*] Within the Department, the responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Security Council Affairs Division, which will provide support to the Security Council and its subsidiary organs, in particular the sanctions committees, **the Counter-Terrorism Committee** [*changed to reflect Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)*], fact-finding missions and informal working groups, and to the Military Staff Committee. Substantive support will take the form of provision of advice in accordance with the Charter, the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Council's decisions and past practice; research and analysis; preparation of reports; follow-up of the implementation of the Council's decisions; the timely issuance of parliamentary documentation and communications in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Council and its programme of work; liaison with presiding officers and members; and effective coordination of the meetings of the Council and its consultations and of meetings of subsidiary organs and working groups. **Support will also be provided to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its work, as well as to expert monitoring groups and panels, such as the Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against UNITA and the Monitoring Group on Afghanistan established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1363 (2001).** [*changed to reflect Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council establishing expert monitoring groups and panels*] Substantive support will also include research and analysis in connection with the implementation and effectiveness of mandatory measures or sanctions imposed by the Council, and their impact on the population in target and third countries. In view of this impact, the evolution of the concept of "smart" sanctions, including the use and implementation of targeted financial sanctions, arms embargoes, travel bans and other similar measures will continue to be addressed, keeping in view Article 50 of the Charter. Special economic problems of affected third States will also be duly taken into account. Work will also continue to be undertaken on the constitutional and procedural issues related to the interpretation and application of the Charter and the Security Council's provisional rules of procedure for the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and on the relevant Articles of the Charter for the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*.

Expected accomplishments

1.16 [*old paragraph 1.15*] **Deliberations and** decision-making by the Security Council **and its subsidiary organs** would be facilitated through effective substantive services and support. [*changes derived from table 3.14 of the budget, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253*]

Subprogramme 4
Decolonization

Expected accomplishments

1.23 [*old paragraph 1.22*] ~~Accomplishments would be the provision of services to the Special Committee, its seminars and the General Assembly; the production of effective research, analytical studies and reports on conditions in the Territories; the execution of effective publicity campaigns; and the provision of efficient assistance by specialized~~

~~agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations to the people in Non-Self-Governing Territories.~~ **Accomplishments would be the strengthened capacity of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the General Assembly to discharge their decolonization mandate.** ~~[~~*changes derived from table 3.16 of the budget, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253*~~]~~

1.24 ~~[~~*old paragraph 1.23*~~]~~ ~~Accomplishments would also include~~ **the** ~~progress made in the decolonization process in accordance with United Nations resolutions;~~ **the increased or sustained access to information on the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and relevant resolutions on decolonization by Member States and specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations as well as other users; and the assistance received by peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.** ~~[~~*changes derived from table 3.16 of the budget, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253*~~]~~

Indicators of achievement

1.25 [*old paragraph 1.24*] **Indicators of achievement would be the extent to which the Special Committee is satisfied with services provided to enable it to discharge its mandate; the increase in number of requests for information on decolonization; and the sustained assistance from specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations provided to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.** [*changes derived from table 3.16 of the budget, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253*]

~~(a) The effectiveness of servicing provided to the Special Committee, its seminars and the General Assembly; the effectiveness of research and analytical studies and reports on conditions in the Territories; the effectiveness of publicity campaigns; and the efficiency of assistance from specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations to the people in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;~~

~~(b) The degree of satisfaction expressed by Member States with services provided by the Secretariat;~~

~~(c) The level of progress made in the decolonization process in accordance with United Nations resolutions.~~

Subprogramme 5
Question of Palestine

Indicators of achievement

1.29 [*old paragraph 1.28*] ~~An indicator~~ **Indicators of** achievement would be an increase in the level of support from the international community for the subprogramme's objectives, **including the sustained dialogue and engagement of relevant actors, such as Governments, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on all aspects of the question of Palestine."** [*changes derived from table 3.18 of the budget, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253*]

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 1
Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

General Assembly resolutions

~~54/186~~ **56/231** Situation of human rights in Myanmar

55/22 **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States**

55/161 **Observer status for the Economic Community of Central African States in the General Assembly**

55/217 **Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa**

55/281 **Prevention of armed conflict**

56/37 **Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa**

56/41 **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum**

Security Council resolution

1366 (2001) **Concerning prevention of armed conflict**

Subprogramme 2
Electoral assistance

~~54/173~~ **56/159** Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

Subprogramme 4
Decolonization

General Assembly resolutions

1541 (XV) **Principles which should guide members in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter**

55/146 **Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism**

~~54/83~~ **56/65** Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

~~54/84~~ **56/66** Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

~~54/85~~ **56/67** Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

~~54/86~~ **56/68**	Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories
~~54/91~~ **56/69**	**Question of Western Sahara**
56/70	**Question of New Caledonia**
56/71	**Question of Tokelau**
56/72	**Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands**
~~54/92~~ **56/73**	Dissemination of information on decolonization

General Assembly decisions

56/420	**Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration**
56/421	**Question of Gibraltar**

Subprogramme 5
Question of Palestine

General Assembly resolutions

~~54/39~~ **56/33**	Committee on the Exercise of Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
~~54/40~~**56/34**	Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat
~~54/41~~**56/35**	Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat
~~54/42~~ **56/36**	Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine